

ASCSM proposes structural changes

Hilary Brown
Managing Editor

For the second year in a row, the future of the student government at the Colorado School of Mines is in dispute. The Associated Students of the Colorado School of Mines (ASCSM) voted last week to approve yet another significant, structural change for the upcoming academic year.

For the past 10 months, ASCSM has been operating under a bicameral house system, comprised of the Senate and the Club Council. The current structure was originally pursued to fix complaints with the old unicameral system, which had been in place for more than twenty years.

"The biggest complaint under the old system was that a few select clubs, such as Blue Key and MEP, had votes, while so many others, such as SWE and Tau Beta Pi, did not. While arguments can be, and indeed were, made for why this was the case, in the end, there could be no question that there was a problem with the fair allocation of votes," said Charles Perko, Mines Activity Council (MAC) representative to ASCSM.

SEE "ASCSM" PG 3



ZACH AMAN, HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

Changes Abound: After revising their structure just under a year ago, ASCSM is now proposing a third structure to remedy the participation problems created in the second.

Debate thrives over changes proposed to McBride

Zach Aman
Editor-in-Chief

Everybody knows it's difficult to get into the McBride program, but for next year's incoming McBride class, it's going to get even more difficult to stay.

According to McBride Senior Representative Paul Johnson, the first change "focuses on an automatic drop for any student with any two semesters under the minimum GPA – no longer two consecutive semesters. The second [change] is that students no longer have the right to automatically appeal the action; they must be invited by the executive committee to appeal."

Johnson mentioned that these two measures were originally proposed because the Program's Interim Principle Tutor and Director, Dr. Loring Abeyta, was "frustrated with the amount of paperwork involved in having a cyclical appeals system."

Dr. Kay Godel-Gengenbach, chair of the McBride Program Executive Committee, agreed. "A lot of students below 2.5 [GPA] were clogging the system with their appeals and wanting to stay in the program, but had never got [their GPA] up to where it should be," said Godel-Gengenbach.

"This preoccupation with grades is poisoning this institution."
-Dr. Mark Eberhart

Additionally, accepted freshmen must have a fall semester GPA above the minimum requirements, whereas they are currently allowed to begin the curriculum on probation. It has been suggested that the freshmen reception, typically held in November to officially welcome accepted students in the program, would be moved to the spring semester to accommodate this change.

In the eyes of some, these changes are intended to better define the term honors. "In 2005, the [McBride] Tutorial Committee recommended that the program redefine itself as 'honors.' In the past, there has been some confusion because the Principle Tutor has to interpret these standards. There's been an attempt, I think, to better define these standards," said Executive Committee member Dr. Warren Spaulding.

Space Exploration Conference draws CSM student interest

Akira Rattenbury
Staff Writer

Two busloads of eager Mines students departed the CSM campus on Wednesday afternoon last week to boldly go and visit over 30 exhibitors and listen to a panel of space industry experts.

The Future Exploration Leaders Reception brought industry and government entities together to meet with interested college students about potential careers and leadership opportunities in the growing space industry.

The event started with an informal session where student attendees roamed Exhibit Hall D of the Colorado Convention Center to talk with industry engineers, scientists, and recruiters from various organizations and companies. "The networking experience was pretty sweet," commented CSM sophomore Kelly Commeford about the ample opportunities to chat with company representatives.

Company representatives were also excited to "find out what the students were interested in and passionate about," said Brett Fischer from the Space Exploration Division of Boeing. "The Future Leaders Reception is wonderful. Seeing students come out, and to see all the interest and enthusiasm is very encouraging."

"It's great interacting with stu-

dents who don't know what industry is like," said engineer Paul Escalera of Orbital Sciences Corp. Many companies were on hand to answer student questions about what opportunities are available to various engineering majors.

Mines students, representing Nakagawa's Exploration, Research, and Development Students (NERDS) group, presented an exhibit featuring their current group project. "We are designing a rover for NASA's Regolith Excavation Centennial Challenge," said CSM senior and team member Chris Langer.

Notable exhibits included a lunar rover demonstration from NASA and a robot named Sprocket D. Rocket. Many students were captivated by the entertainment robot, which boasted an uncanny knack for making seemingly authentic conversation to unsuspecting passer-bys. "I really liked the robot, and it was cool to see what I might like to get into," said US Air Force Academy freshman Gerra Turner.

To end the evening, a panel of five space community insiders shared their insights into the space industry and spoke of the need for future leaders. "Be really clear about what you are excited about, and don't be embarrassed by it," said Kelly Snook, an Aerospace Engineer and Planetary Scientist for NASA.

SEE "SPACE" PG 5

Alumnus delivers seminar on being an expert witness

Patrick Beseda
Staff Writer

"Never compromise your integrity." He said it once, he repeated himself, and then he said it again.

"Never compromise your integrity." Dr. Paul Kyed spoke for the weekly Materials Research Seminar in Hill Hall last Thursday afternoon. A 1989 graduate of Colorado School of Mines' MME department with a masters degree from Stanford, Kyed returned to CSM for his Ph.D. in MME; he is now a professional engineer turned lawyer.

Kyed attended law school at the University of Denver, served a year-long clerkship with Colorado Supreme Court Justice Nathan Coats and is now part of one of the largest firms in the western United States – Holland and Hart.

Dr. Kyed presented to a room packed with experienced professors, veteran engineers, and scientists and engineers in training. He explained the many reasons why engineers may find themselves involved in the justice system. Surveying the professors in the room, he found that a few had been expert witnesses before. "It's a teaching experience," according to Dr. George Krauss. Agreeing with this statement, Dr. Kyed elaborated on what it means to be an expert witness.

He moved the room through a hypothetical and humorous trial, in

which members of the audience were called upon to play the roles of Supreme Court Justices as well as an expert witness. He spoke about what it takes to qualify as an expert witness in a case and shared what it feels like to actually be involved in a trial. "Your resume will be under fire; to be spun one way or the other. It's fair game." Kyed stressed that this is not a personal attack, but it's simply the way that business works.

After covering the logistics of being an expert witness, Dr. Kyed offered advice to engineers interested in the opportunities being an expert witness offers. He told the audience, "You only have one reputation to lose. Go with the facts and be sure to exercise caution if asked to work too quickly." Kyed noted that in criminal and civil trials, peoples lives can be at risk: "The stakes are very high."

Dr. Kyed illuminated a few simple points for trial participation. Being an expert witness can be dangerous and confusing: "Master the material, simplify the complex issues and answer the questions, nothing more."

Kyed then spoke to the social aspects of the engineers in the room. "You have to find your inner charisma," he said. Kyed encouraged future expert witnesses to come out of the shell they hide in and be convincing; he stressed the importance of staying calm, even when being scrutinized.

SEE "WITNESS" PG 3

World News in Brief

Abdullah Ahmed, Asst. Business Manager

WASHINGTON DC - Researchers at Washington University have created bionic lenses. If successful, the new lenses could provide zoom, night vision, TV and cell-phone display, and much more. Scientists are trying to use "complicated physics" and nanotechnology to make the lenses deliver a perfect focus on the cornea. They are trying to use wireless electricity for power. Bionic lenses are expected to be available in near future.

LOUISIANA - The US Navy has used the 7.5 tons of steel that had been extracted from Ground Zero post the 9/11 tragedy. The steel went in the construction of a new warship that bears a shield with two bars that signify the two fallen buildings. Families and friends gathered at the ceremony in celebration and remembrance of the victims.

IRAQ - The number of monthly casualties has climbed a cusp in the month of February, 2008, mainly due to more bomb attacks in recent months. At least 633 of civilians were killed during the one month period, which is seen as an improvement from February of 2007, where 1645 lost their lives.

MOSCOW - Citizens began hitting the polls to elect a new president for the country. After serving eight years in the office, President Vladimir Putin will step down this year. He has helped Russia's economy achieve a considerable boost, which gained him vast popularity among the citizens. According to the government's data, over 109 million Russians are expected to vote.

THAILAND - Ex-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra returned to Bangkok after being exiled for 17 months due to a military coup in 2006. The joyful politician was greeted by thousands of supporters at the airport, and afterwards was taken to court to face charges related to "abuse of power." In his BBC interview he said, "No more politics [for me]."

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CSM students work to make a Safe Zone

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Opinion Editor

Diversity has been a highlighted issue on campus recently, with the release of the new campus Diversity Plan and the ever-present gender ratio. From 7 to 9 p.m. this Monday, March 3rd, in the Boettcher Room of Arthur Lakes Library, an event called Safe Zone will be held. Safe Zone offers information and discussion to promote awareness of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) communities in places such as the Mines campus. The event will be hosted by CSM's Sigma Lambda student organization and presented by the group GLBT Student Services at the Auraria campus. Students and faculty who have attended previous Safe Zone events gave a positive review. "It's a very interesting conversation to help people learn how to communicate better," said Millicent Schmidt, a graduate student in geochemistry. Toni Lefton, Senior Lecturer in the LAIS Department, echoed that sentiment, declaring, "I think that Safe Zone brings the campus together." Safe Zone provides posters and cards for professors and staff members to put up in their offices, signifying that they provide a "safe zone" for their students. "I appreciate having a Safe Zone poster in my area because it lets people know I [provide] a safe place," said

Cathy Van Tassel, Program Assistant at Arthur Lakes Library. Included in those enthusiastic about the Safe Zone program is Derek Morgan, the Director of Student Activities. "It shows support for our students. It shows that there are allies and advocates on our campus," said Morgan. "I think for our campus, which has a reputation of being super-conservative, it signifies a step in the right direction." Assistant Director of Student Activities Marie Hornickel agrees. "I think any time there's an opportunity to further awareness of diversity, it helps the campus," she said. Past attendees appreciated the event's goal of promoting awareness of GLBT issues. "If I can be an advocate to support all our students, that's very important. That's a simple step that I can take," said Morgan. "My obligation is always to my students. It matters to me who my students are and that they can be themselves," said Lefton. "It is important to provide concrete suggestions and ideas for people to create a safe zone for the GLBT community," said Hornickel. "I really value diversity and think it would be

"It shows support for our students. It shows that there are allies and advocates on our campus."
-Derek Morgan

so boring if everyone was the same. I fully recognize and appreciate that I have much to learn from people who are different from me," she added. The experience of the event itself was of value to past attendees as well. "[The event was] a very interesting conversation to help people learn how to communicate better," said Schmidt. Lefton was adamant in saying that the event helped her serve her students. "I went for many reasons, but, ultimately, I wanted to create an environment where any student would feel welcome," she said. "The training really helped me in clarifying to people that my office [is] a safe zone." When asked what they would say to potential attendees, all gave a message of encouragement to attend. "People should attend to educate themselves, broaden their perspectives, and create an inclusive community," said Morgan. Lefton praised the program, saying, "It emphasizes that we're all connected, not just by the classroom, but by our respect for one another." One student who had never heard of the program identified with the message, and shared his thoughts. "I think it will definitely be something very helpful. I've seen the struggles that GLBT people sometimes have. One of my best friends is gay, and exposure to the issues is essential," said Matt Pusard, a Junior in Chemical Engineering. Added Pusard, "Knowledge is power. It's gotta be a great thing."

This Week at Mines

Mines was mentioned in the Rocky Mountain News this week for its involvement in the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory, a group that could soon be involved in concentrating solar power near DIA.

CSM was mentioned this week for its top status among institutions that Red Rocks Community College students transfer to.

CSM student athletes Kyle Pape, Ben Mohr, and Chad Friehauf were named to the 2007-2008 All-Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference men's basketball team.

Professor Tom Furtak was appointed head of the Physics Department after being the acting head for one semester; Furtak has been at CSM since 1986.

Vinod Ghoting was announced to be a finalist for the position of "Director of Capital Planning and Construction and Campus Architect." An open forum will be held this Friday from 12:30 to 1:15 PM in the conference room of the General Research Building.

CSM swimming coach Dave Hughes was fired from the institution.

Dissent over ASCSM

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

As this year progressed, it became clear that the new structure had issues of its own. "There wasn't enough interest to fill all of the seats and then, as the semester went on, we found out that there wasn't enough for the Club Council to do. Everyone's time and talents were being wasted in the Club meetings," said Wendy Brost, Vice President of ASCSM.

The ASCSM voted on a new structure two weeks ago. "ASCSM decided to change the structure mainly because the changes from last year were not reaching their intended goals and we had identified some new opportunity gaps for improving efficiency of the council by observing the strengths and weaknesses of the new structure over the past year," said ASCSM President Casey Morse.

The proposed structure eliminates the Club Council and restricts votes in the Senate to officials elected by the student body.

"One of the primary benefits is the responsibility for ASCSM policies lies in the hands of primarily elected representatives. This allows for the students to be able to hold their elected class representatives responsible for any changes or policies they would like to see the school implement," said Justin Chichester, President of the Graduate Students Association.

One hope is that the new system will add legitimacy to the roles of elected representatives. "I truly believe this will empower the students. As the structure is reorganized and some of the responsibilities, such as club approvals, are removed, the ASCSM Senate will now be able to concentrate on bigger issues that impact the students," said Derek Morgan, Faculty Advisor for ASCSM and Director of Student Activities.

Last Thursday, students were invited to a Town Hall styled meeting to discuss the changes and offer ideas for amending the new bylaws. One of the ideas discussed was the addition of two positions to the budget committee. "With the addition of a MAC and Board of Publications representative on the ASCSM Budget Committee, the Student Activities allocation process will have formal input from all of the official Boards on campus," said Kevin Duffy, ASCSM Treasurer.

Other topics included the proposal of a new Club Council, separate from ASCSM, that would handle club approvals and event planning. "Removing Club Council from ASCSM would help to achieve a long-standing goal to promote communications between clubs and organizations. Events could be scheduled, co-planned and organized with the help of several groups," explained Simon Demby-Myers, Treasurer and ASCSM Representative of the Student Athletic Advisory Council.

Demby-Myers originally proposed the idea for an independent club council for discussion during the Town Hall meeting. "A calendar of events could also be provided to the full body of CSM to provide information concerning most events around campus. I believe this would increase student action around campus and in Club Council. Basically, this would create a functional community out of the current sham that is Club Council," he explained.

Meeting attendees brainstormed about possible roles for the new incarnation of the Club council. "I really liked the idea of the new Club Council acting as sort of a 'mentor' for new clubs and organizations on campus - making sure all of their paperwork is turned in, helping them plan

events, answering their questions, and helping them to become successful clubs on campus," said Brost.

Overall, the Town Hall meeting offered students an opportunity to voice their opinions. "It was much less daunting and my opinions were listened to with greater respect and care than is usually found at ASCSM meetings. I felt that this forum provided me a better opportunity to present my ideas and motives," said Demby-Myers.

Many attendees felt that the brainstorming session was a success. "A lot of good ideas were tossed around and there was excellent agreement on some minor tweaks to the structure presented. Everyone who attended was allowed to voice their opinion if they so chose to," said Chichester.

"The level of input and support shown so far proves that we're on to something. I am, however, of the opinion that this process needs to be done right. We need to sit down and make sure everything fits together before we finalize the proposal. If we rush this, and something goes wrong because of it, we'll have wasted a hell of a good idea," said Perko. "In my memory, the plan currently on the table has not only incorporated input from both the greatest number of students involved with ASCSM government, but has seen the greatest amount of input from the campus community in general."

The faculty advisor for ASCSM, Derek Morgan, attended both the official meeting and the Town Hall meeting. "I am excited because a group of students have shown a genuine commitment to bettering their organization. The answers aren't easy and the debate has been long, but it is refreshing to see a group of students so focused and dedicated to making a real impact," said Morgan.

A group will be meeting this Monday at 7pm to officially create a document of proposed bylaw changes. The bylaws will be under consideration for official ASCSM vote on Thursday, March 6 at 7pm. Interested students are encouraged to attend both meetings, as ASCSM meetings are considered an open forum, where even non-voting members can come to voice their opinions and concerns.

Many are hopeful that the changes will have a positive effect on the perceived legitimacy of ASCSM and will encourage students to be more active. "I hope that changes in officers can lead to a student government of students who care. Currently, most positions seem to be filled by members who are using the position to pad their resumes and give nothing back to the community here at Mines. Many rarely show up to meetings or their office hours, and even more rarely act to improve the lives of students on campus," said Demby-Myers.

"By removing votes from the club representatives, we change their role from being a delegate to being a constituent of a class again. This will encourage our interested club representatives to either run for office, participate in discussions at meetings, or pressure their Class Officers into stronger more active roles," said Morse.

"[The changes] will empower the overall student body to elect strong leaders that are diligent, principled, and dedicated to their constituents. It will empower the elected executive, class, and club officers to take on tough issues and empower them to re-establish connections with the faculty and administration so they can have a greater impact on these issues," said Morgan. "My hope it that is also empowers all students to hold each other accountable for their actions and decisions."

Policy changes in store for McBride Program

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

"I think the McBride program really used to be a shining star on campus," said Godel-Gengenbach. "It isn't that the star has become tarnished, but our visibility has changed."

Dr. Laura Pang, Director of CSM's Liberal Arts and International Studies Department and ex-officio member of the McBride Executive Committee, mentioned that the current standards are too gray. "Either the [original] language was intentionally left broad and very-

much open to interpretation so that you could have incredible flexibility," she said, "or when it was written somebody thought 'okay, that's going to cover everything.'"

Seminar Moderator and Chemistry Professor Dr. Mark Eberhart disagreed about the use of GPAs for measurement, however. "Since when do the cream of the crop have anything to do with GPA?" said Dr. Eberhart. "We have an environment here where people are more concerned with grades than learning and with GPA than knowledge. This preoccupation with grades is poisoning this institution."

"You have to make decisions to be in programs, but to me GPAs are a dehumanizing way to evaluate the role and purpose and mission of a human being," said Dr. Arthur Sacks, former Associate Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs. "It's an artificial mechanism to use GPA alone: it doesn't reach far enough to understand the person and whether they work well in this context or this program."

"I'd rather take a minor hit in the GPA realm and be more balanced overall," said McBride Junior Class Representative Kevin Duffy. "GPA is not a measure of knowledge or intellect, it's a measure of how well you can jump through the hoops and play the games the professor and administration give to you."

McBride Senior Class Representative Amy Dubetz agrees. "The people who contribute the most to our McBride class aren't necessarily those of us with top GPAs. The fact is, it's an engineering honors program, but they're not engineering honors classes," said Dubetz.

According to McBride administration, the senior class of 2008 carries a 51% attrition rate and the current junior class, graduating in 2009, stands at 58% attrition. For

the past few years, attrition numbers have remained steady. The classes of 2004 and 2006 both graduated with roughly 56% attrition and, in the current sophomore class, 19 students of the original 43 have left the program after just over one year.

"If you [reach] below 15 people in some of the tutorials, you're below critical mass," said Dr. Eberhart. "It will not function."

According to Associate Provost Dr. Wendy Harrison, "the program has always had a high attrition rate." Some students are concerned about the impact of the proposed changes. "I think this will effect the attrition rate of the program even more so," said Duffy, "because many of the students that the McBride program attracts are not the 4.0 students of CSM."

Additionally, there is a degree of concern regarding the proposed appellate procedure. "My personal view is that I'm always in favor of enabling a student to argue a case," said Sacks.

"I believe that, if there is a rule that may have a good basis in existing and a student somehow doesn't meet that test, either at the front door of getting admitted or while they're in the program, they ought to be given an opportunity to explain what will change in the future. People should have a right to make the case and faculty have an obligation to listen," he said.

"I think the Executive Committee has taken the position that we're not going to hear appeals until GPA requirements have been met," said Godel-Gengenbach. "What we're saying is 'go out and prove you're honors material' and we'll decide whether or not to let them back in."

"I would go so far as to say it would be worthwhile for the [McBride] Executive Committee to look at the appellate issue," said Spaulding. "I'll frankly say that I think the appellate process should be reviewed again. Some of these things go through rapidly in a bureaucracy."

To Dr. Barbara Olds, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, it comes down to question of what the program actually is. "If it's an academic honors program," she said, "I don't think there's any question that students should be expected

to maintain a high GPA to remain in the program. If it's an enhancement honors program, you bring other people who enhance the program in other ways and people who can benefit from the program as much as they can contribute to the program."

"I agree that students here are under lots of pressure with enormously full plates and course loads that most people can't imagine," Olds added. "I think that McBride would have to take that into consideration."

"LAIS had an occasion once to compare notes with all of us who teach McBride - there's no difference in level of ability in liberal arts. If anything, I would say that I have had non-McBride students outperform McBride students in liberal arts coursework," said Pang.

For quite some time, McBride and LAIS have discussed the possibility of integration. "Almost since the program was founded and I would say more so in the last 7 or 8 years, we've been going at this [integration]. Where we end up is that, down at this level, we can't make the decisions that need to be made. Something needs to be decided, because Dr. Abeyta has a contract that ends in May," she continued.

These changes come at a time when the program is under interim leadership. "The changes are appropriate," said Eberhart, "but it would be organizationally astute to wait until you had a permanent principle tutor in place before making such far-reaching decisions with such far-reaching consequences."

"I think Dr. Abeyta has done a remarkable job under sometimes difficult circumstances," said Olds. "The program needs to move forward whether it's a permanent or interim position."

Dr. Abeyta is in her second year as interim administrator for the program. "The revisions to the McBride Standards

for Student Performance are under review by the appropriate governing bodies of CSM," she said. Declining further comment on the changes, she said, "It is inappropriate at this time for me, as Interim Principle Tutor and Director of the Program, to discuss these revisions more widely."

According to Harrison, the Tutorial Committee and Executive Committee of McBride must approve the proposed changes. Additionally, however, the Undergraduate Council will need to offer its approval as well, as the alterations will incorporate language changes to the Undergraduate Bulletin.

“According to McBride administration, the senior class of 2008 carries a 51% attrition rate and the current junior class, graduating in 2009, stands at 58% attrition.”

“I would say that I have had non-McBride students outperform McBride students in liberal arts coursework.”

-Dr. Laura Pang

MME seminar discusses being an expert witness

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Dr. Kyed then took the time to talk about the business side of the field and how to properly market oneself. In his eyes, it is most important to work meticulously and ethically. According to Kyed, "Good work brings more work." He suggests that students should strive to have a top-notch resume, to publish articles, and to network with peers and lawyers in their area. Kyed also warned, "If you are not qualified to testify, say

so." It can be tempting to tell lawyers what they want to hear with the amount of money that is offered to expert witnesses; Kyed warns that witnesses should never compromise their integrity.

Dr. Kyed also spoke to "what every engineer should know about being arrested. Don't do like they do on TV and spill your guts. You can always remain silent and ask for an attorney."

Kyed ended his presentation with a short segment regarding the benefits and obstacles of engineers attend-

ing law school. On the plus side, he noted, engineers are objective thinkers and tend to do well in all subjects. Engineers turned lawyers will find themselves in a highly competitive field.

Finishing the discussion, Kyed expressed his pride in CSM. The lecture series continues, as always, next Thursday, March 6, at 4pm in Hill Hall 202 with Dr. Kharagpur Sarveswara Rao, of IIT, presenting research involving aqueous processing of copper, zinc, and lead sulfides.

TECH BREAK

February news

... with Ian Littman

The world of technology seemingly never takes a break and, as such, here are some of the highlights about what is going on in the world today.

1. The iPod Shuffle is now \$49 for 1GB. 2GB is also now out, at \$69. Keep that screenless music rolling! They also introduced speed bumps across their notebook line; the Macbook and Macbook Pro models both get faster processors and larger hard disks, the Macbooks get more memory standard and the Macbook Pros get slightly better graphics and the "multitouch" touchpad pioneered by the Macbook Air. The new Apple TV, Take 2, is also out, for movie-renting, photo-viewing, on-device buying fun galore!

2. Toshiba is killing its own format: yes, HD DVD is dead. This is after BestBuy, WalMart, Netflix and studios everywhere have

disowned the format. Additionally, Microsoft is scrapping the Xbox 360's external HD DVD drive. There is no word from Microsoft if they will try to replace it with external Blu Ray players as of yet.

3. Analog cell phones are officially dead. In response to this, AT&T, Verizon and US Cellular have started the celebration of freed-up spectrum with a \$100 unlimited plan per month for voice. T-Mobile goes one better: same price, but you also get unlimited messaging. Then US Cellular (ever heard of them?) joined the deal with a plan similar to AT&T and Verizon's. Last but certainly not least, Sprint joined with a bang, offering unlimited EVERYTHING, or pretty much so, for the same price as the others, and unlimited voice and messaging for just \$90 per month. Wireless revolution, anyone?

4. Use Starbucks for WiFi? It's now AT&T-powered and free for the first two hours if you have a Starbucks gift card. Got T-Mobile WiFi?

Don't worry; it'll still work at Starbucks for the next five years, at least.

5. Remember Polaroid? You know, the instant camera maker? Well, instant cameras are now totally gone... grab your Polaroid film while you still can!

6. Yahoo is trying to dodge acquisition by Microsoft, as share price for the latter tumbles a bit. Possible ways out include News Corp. and AOL. But Microsoft may go right to Yahoo shareholders to seal the buyout deal. Hostile takeover, here we come!

7. EA is going Microhoo on Take2, the makers of Grand Theft Auto. The price, \$2 billion.

8. Pakistan did a bad job of trying to filter out YouTube from their internet; they brought down the site for a few hours a weekend ago! This is unrelated, so far as everyone knows, to the internet cables cut at the beginning of February (of which there may have been as many as nine).

Quantum analysis of hydrates

Zach Aman
Editor-in-Chief

While most college research utilizes pipettes and laboratory journals, the chemical engineering department at Virginia Polytechnic Institute has a rather distinct method of collecting data.

With 1,100 Apple XServe computers aligned in a RAID cluster, the department is able to collect data from statistical thermodynamics and molecular dynamics models. With each machine employing dual 2.3 GHz G5 processors and 4 GB of memory, the total array is able to store 65 terabytes – or 65,000 gigabytes – of data.

Last week, Virginia Tech professor and Colorado School of Mines alumnus Amadeu Sum outlined his department's research to an audience of Colorado School of Mines faculty and students. Primarily, the department focuses on "molecular modeling as an enabling tool in the study of molecular thermodynamics and biophysical interactions."

In dealing with molecular thermodynamics, Sum's group analyzes clathrate hydrates for stability energy, compositions, and interactions in biological systems. "How can we apply computational methods to determine the stability of hydrates?" asks Sum. His goal is to reduce the number of experiments required to determine hydrate structure.

The energy of interaction for each experiment is calculated from structure 2, cyclopentane hydrates in vacuum. CSM Professor David Wu questioned whether or not the employed vacuum approximation would yield appropriate results.

"I agree that there are some questions about this approximation," said Sum, "but for a first approximation, it's okay." In addition, however, Sum's group is considering the stability energy of fluorinated, cyclopentane derivatives. "Projecting different structural conformations of these derivatives allows for linear prediction beyond common, experi-



ZACH AMAN / OREDIGGER

Supercomputing Chemistry: Dr. Sum uses a supercomputer to approximate the quantum behavior of clathrate hydrates in a vacuum.

mental values," Sum concluded.

Additionally, the group investigates hydrate composition by relating chemical potential to fractional occupancy within the hydrate. What's more, the Virginia Tech researchers use "CSMHYD," a program code developed by CSM's Center for Hydrate Research. Sum concluded that CSMHYD performs better than alternative methods – Raman spectroscopy and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

The group also analyzes hydrates and their interaction in biological materials, proposing that hydrates could be employed to "keep water present at all times and additionally be able to form [them] at mild conditions."

In Sum's models, superimposing hydrate structures over a cell's lipid biological layer (bilayer) yields, after equilibration, a ratio of roughly 10 water molecules that dissociate per lipid. According to Sum, this data agrees with comparative

experiments. Currently, the group is "carrying out experimental work to validate computational models."

Lipid bilayers are of great interest to the research team, who use phospholipids as the main component for modeling. Of note, Sum is interested in "looking into different types of stability found in different protectants, such as disaccharides."

"We performed simulations," said Sum, "that characterized the lipid bilayer by analyzing several different properties." Properties such as annealing, angle distribution of the lipid tail, and bilayer thickness were studied.

Amphiphiles – molecules containing both hydrophobic and hydrophilic properties – embedded into the lipid bilayer are also of interest to the group. Ultimately, Sum hopes that research down this avenue will lead to nanoparticles that bind between the amphiphile and bilayer, potentially serving as drug delivery systems.

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Brains and Bras ...A look at women at Mines

What's in a ratio? Reason to improve

Rachel Wix
Staff Writer

Every prospective student hears about the Mines ratio. Depending on many factors, the reaction can range from disbelief to excitement. For many students, the ratio simply means that there are more guys to talk to.

On campus tours, the ratio is given as 25 women to 75 men. Of the undergraduate population for 2007, the percentage of women was 26.8%. For many, this seems like a very small number. However, compared to a national average of 17%, Mines is doing very well.

"When compared to national averages, Mines is good... which isn't good. We could do better," said Jahi Simbai. Simbai works in the graduate office, specifically working to bring more women and minorities into the graduate program here.

The school is working to attract more women through programs such as "Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day," Girl Scout Badge Day, and other programs. These programs are organized through

the CSM chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and the Women In Science, Engineering, and Math (WISEM) program.

The Admissions Office "heavily recruits women," to bring the percentage up, said Sarah Andrews of Admissions and Financial Aid.

"Of course we want to continue to increase the number of women attending Colorado School of Mines. One of the goals [is] to enhance academic programs and student life to attract an increased number of women and minority students," said Deb Lasich, WISEM's executive director.

Anyone attending CSM knows the various jokes about the ratio. While many of these are purely comical, they affect the outlook of would-be students. "The jokes are bad for both sides of the situation," said Simbai. "Young men are turned off by the thought that there will only be a few girls, and those few will be 'odd.' Women don't want to stand out everywhere they go, be the only girl in their math class".

This also gives Mines a stigma that is hard to shake. The only way to change this is for more women

to overcome this fear and attend. Since she attended a liberal arts school, Andrews "can see that it's [the ratio is] odd. I think it doesn't give people the opportunity to have some of the diversified thought that women bring. Our female students are strong and make their ideas known, so it balances."

One of the things that help Mines is the community. The students here come ready to work and know where they are going in life. "Mines is a unique environment," said Simbai. "If you took the CU Engineering Department and stuck it by itself, it wouldn't be the same. Their students are too involved in other activities. The students here are focused, intelligent and know what they want to do."

No matter where a student goes on campus or out into the town, other students are found working to understand their classes. The efforts combine to make Mines a model for study and learning. By attracting more women, the school would be able to increase the diversity on campus with the various beliefs, thoughts, understandings, and backgrounds of more women.

Personal and professional development in SWE

Jake Rezac
Staff Writer

"SWE [Society of Women Engineers] gives women a great support network on campus with personal and professional development opportunities and fun networking events," said SWE president Jean Romersheuser.

The organization – which has 370 members, making it the largest professional organization on campus – hosts a range of events related to engineering, particularly focusing on women in engineering.

They host a lunch meeting every Wednesday at noon, at which, typically, "an invited speaker presents on a specific topic... rang[ing] from technical... to personal... to professional development," explained SWE faculty advisor Candace Sulzbach.

These events help SWE members to "get access to mentors, and attend networking events with company representatives to scout out internships and jobs."

SWE also provides fun and informative events for surrounding community. "The biggest special event SWE hosts is Girl Scout Badge Day," Sulzbach said. This event brings about 200 Girl Scouts from the Denver Mile Hi Council where they "can earn badges such as 'Engineering Everything,' 'Chem-Mystery,' 'Science Discovery,' and 'Computer Fun.' The girls also make asphalt cookies and tour the campus."

SWE does other things for the community as well. "We have a

SWE-ET Links (Society of Women Engineers – Engineering and Technology Links) program. Several Mines SWE members form an EPICS team and come up with a hands-on module to be presented to middle school girls about some aspect of engineering."

In terms of regional SWE organizations, SWE at Mines is very important. With its 370 members, it is the third largest collegiate section in the nation. Furthermore, "last year, [it] hosted the Region I conference, which attracted approximately 300 students and professionals from Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Missouri," according to Sulzbach.

"Support, mentorship and networking are just a few reasons to be a part of an organization like SWE," Sulzbach said. "Access to these resources adds a valuable element to a Mines education."

"You can still join!" Sulzbach added. "If you'd like to join for this academic year, go to <http://www.swe.org> and apply online."

SWE does "many different great activities through the year like our Networking night where members can meet potential employers and learn about different career paths," said Romersheuser.

This, along with the work for the community that SWE does and the significance of Mines in the national organization makes SWE an important addition to campus for the men (who can join) and women involved.

Election 2008: Is gender an issue?

Jesse El-Aayi
Staff Writer

Through the month of March, the nation takes part in celebrating Women's History. In 89 years, women in this country have gone from not being able to vote to running for the president of the United States of America.

The female student body at Mines consists of 22 percent of the entire school. Many of these ladies have strong political views and beliefs. What do Mines girls think about Hillary Clinton's campaign for presidency, and which candidates do they support?

Through her campaign, Clinton has hoped to appeal to all women. She has proved able to attract women of the baby boom generation more so than

young women across the country.

"I don't agree with all the people that want Hillary because she is a female, rather than because of her politics," stated sophomore Brecca Gaffrey. Clinton's campaign has been unable to attract the masses of youth like her Democratic rival, Barack Obama.

This also includes many first time voters. Many females at Mines are excited about this year's race, and have registered to vote this November in the general election.

"I am excited that there is a woman who has gotten this far. It's great, but I don't really know if Hillary Clinton is the right choice - if she can be that woman," said senior Dana Drake, a registered Democrat.

"Barack Obama is not one of those stereotypical presidential candidates," said freshman Lily Ma,

in response to why she preferred Barack over Hillary. "I particularly respect his cooperative international diplomacy plan. I like where he's coming from and what he's trying to bring to the presidential office."

Grad student LB Williams has different feelings on the issue. "I will fully support and vote for the Democratic Nominee, whoever that may be. We have two very qualified and exceptional candidates, and we must unite as a party in order to win this election," said Williams, who is President of CSM Democrats.

The Colorado School of Mines also has a fairly large conservative community. John McCain does have female support on campus, though it is relatively small in comparison to the wave Democratic hopeful Barack Obama is currently surfing.

For opinions about women at Mines, see "Women crucial at Mines," by Debra Lasich on page 10.

Future Exploration Leaders Reception discusses ideas of space exploration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Panelists spoke candidly about our country's need for more good engineers and innovations to push the industry forward and re-spark the country's interest in space.

"People that know how to do things, engineers that know how to work with their hands are so valuable," said panelist and space entrepreneur Tim Pickens. He implored student engineers to acquire as much hands-on experience as possible. "We won't go into space on power points and models."

The event featured free catered hors d'oeuvres, and was attended by large contingencies from

the major Colorado universities including CSM, CU, CSU, DU, and the US Air Force Academy.

The 3rd Space Exploration Conference was a 3 day event (February 26-28), presented by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), in collaboration with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

The Future Exploration Leaders Reception was only one component of the conference, which featured panel discussions and lectures, as well as educational outreach to elementary school children through the "Education Alley" session earlier in the day.



Geek of the Week

...The Gravedigger

Melinda Bartel
Staff Writer

[Oredigger]: In your last Gravedigger you said it took you 10 minutes to read Geek of the Week. I'm pretty sure most people read it in about 2. Since you obviously weren't reading when you were young, what did you enjoy as a child?

[Gravedigger]: "Slow and steady wins the race." I savor every moment of the incredible literature that "Geek of the Week" puts out. Besides, I didn't really have time since I was reading so slowly.

When did you realize you were (to use your own phrase) "socially rejected?"

When all the kids had cable collections and I didn't. I hid away at the practice fields and the shopping malls of Colorado, to find underprivileged kids like me to hang with. It was a terrible time! I always wanted my own cable collection, instead I had to spend my time outside (yuk!) playing football and basketball and soccer (even more yuk!). If only my parents would have bought me cables instead of the newest basketball for my birthday! That's what I would have really wanted.

You're very against people being secluded in their rooms. What are all the organizations you're apart of?

The GSE (Geek Society of Engineering), the GSB (Great Society of Bullshitting), FBI (Female Body Inspector), LeBron's Witness Protection Program (some

people got that), and of course the FGD (Feed the Gravedigger).

What moniker do you prefer to "Geek?"

Of course I prefer a moniker, or should I say nickname, to "Geek." Why don't we call ourselves "Rose-pebbles," or perhaps "Tender-hearted teddy-



HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

A Man of Mystery: The Gravedigger lives in secrecy, hiding from the prying eyes of other students.

berries"? Nevertheless, even if you would call us by our new name of "Rose-pebbles," would it change the fact that we are geeks?

Would it change the fact that whenever you see us, we've got a math book in our hands? Would it change the fact that we will only talk to you if you're a professor, maybe a TA? So let us be what we are. If you call a dog an elephant, would it change the fact that it is still a dog?

What kind of music do you listen to?

I read this essay in a well-reowned journal – it said that music helps you study. So, I always have classical-contemporary-church

music blaring when I'm studying. This music stimulates my brain cells to the point where I can play Dungeons and Dragons while doing math. Talk about multi-tasking.

What's your favorite Geek Tool?

A wrench. All the better to beat them with.

Do you have a hero or role model?

I have a role model: a self-made man, who got where he wanted to without help from Daddy or great Uncle John paving the way; not stuck up when success is reached and not jealous when it is not. He is truly happy for other's good fortune. A person who enjoys the presence of company, but doesn't shy away from solitude. A person who can decide for himself.

Why do you prefer anonymity in your Gravedigger column?

Have you seen what the fans did to Elvis? I don't want to die on the can like he did.

How do you spend your Saturday nights?

Actually I'm going to have a pretty nice day; we might go to Home Depot – maybe Bed Bath and Beyond – I don't know. I don't know if we'll have time? I spend my Saturdays on the slopes – doing math.

What are your goals for after you graduate?

American Idol and So You Think You Can Dance are in my future. I want to be the first engineer on American Idol; I'm going to be a star.

How is your encyclopedia memorization going?

That was last week – come on keep up. Now, it's phone book time.

Announcing new emergency alert system

Academic Computing and Networking

Colorado School of Mines is launching the Mines Emergency Alert System that will send text and voice messages to students, faculty and staff in the event of a declared emergency.

In order to be included in the first test and receive Mines Emergency Alerts via text message and cellular phone voicemail, you must subscribe by logging on to Trailhead, clicking on "Self Service",

then "Personal Information" and "Mines Emergency Alert System."

You will need to enter your cell phone number as well as list your provider. (To receive emergency text messages, you must have text messaging as a part of your cellular phone service. You will incur messaging charges according to your plan.)

The new text and voice messaging alert will work alongside Mines' current campus broadcast voicemail and mines.edu e-mail notification system.

For more information, see <http://www.mines.edu/mea/>.

ANNOUNCING



Colorado School of Mines is implementing a new **Mines Emergency Alert System** that will send TEXT and VOICE MESSAGES to students, faculty and staff subscribers in the event of a declared emergency.

For information on how to subscribe, go to: www.mines.edu/mea

FAQ: What is the Mines Emergency Alert System?

It is an emergency notification service that allows university officials to quickly communicate emergency messages to students, faculty and staff via text and voice messages.

What do I do when I receive a message?

Remain calm. Follow instructions given.

Can my parents or other family members also sign up so they will know what is going on?

No. This system is designed to notify people on the Colorado School of Mines campus in the event of a declared emergency.

How do I subscribe?

Log on to Trailhead and go to "Self Service." Click on "Personal Information" and then "Mines Emergency Alert System."

How do I unsubscribe?

Log on to Trailhead and go to "Self Service." Click on "Personal Information" and then "Mines Emergency Alert System."

What if I don't have a cell phone?

Officials will send an e-mail to your mines.edu address and attempt to reach the non-campus phone number you provide.

What kind of situation will this notification be used for?

Actual emergencies declared by Colorado School of Mines emergency personnel and administration.

Will this be used for weather-related closures?

No. Refer to local television and radio stations as well as the Mines Web site and main phone number, 303-273-3000, for weather closure information.

What do I do if I change my cell phone carrier?

Update your information by logging in to Trailhead, clicking on "Self Service" and "Personal Information."

Who is the vendor for the Campus Incident Alert text messaging service?

CodeRED®. <http://www.coderedweb.com/>.

Is there a charge for calls or text messages received from CodeRED®?

There is no extra charge for calls or text messages from CodeRED®. However, the phone call or text message is subject to the conditions and rates of your particular calling plan. For example, if your calling plan does not include text messaging, you may incur a charge for a text message received from CodeRED®, based on the rates of your cell phone service provider. Please note that with the exception of the semester system test, Mines will only send text messages for urgent situations.

What if I do not receive the alert?

Mines will notify the campus community of emergencies through various communication vehicles, including its telephone hotline (303-273-3000), targeted e-mail messages, various Web notices and security alerts, among others. Mines and CodeRED®, a product of Emergency Communications Network, Inc., are not responsible for text or voice messages that are not received. Message delivery and the timeliness of the delivery are not guaranteed, and subscribers are responsible for keeping their information current.

How do I know that all of my personal data will be secure and protected by Mines and CodeRED®?

The contact information that you provide for this purpose, such as your cell phone number, will only be provided to CodeRED® for the explicit purpose of notifying you in the event of an emergency. CodeRED® has agreed that they have no right to use your contact information for any purpose other than notifying you via the Emergency Notification System. CodeRED® does not have right to sell, disclose or trade your contact information. Only the individuals employed by the Colorado School of Mines who must use this information to administer and manage the Emergency Notification System will also have access to your contact information. No other access will be allowed except as may be required by law.

How will MEA notifications appear in my caller ID?

CodeRED uses the number 999-911-9999 for phone messages. Text alerts will be from mea@mines.edu.

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Lots of laughs at FAC

Anant Pradhan
Staff Writer

"I don't remember the last time I laughed so hard on campus," said Junior Matt Hurliman at the recent Mines Activity Council sponsored comedian night. The event held on February 29 in the campus I-Club featured comedian Geoff Keith.

Keith had the crowd laughing for virtually the entire hour of his act with jokes ranging from the topics of race to sex. However, what really made him stand out was his impromptu comedy.

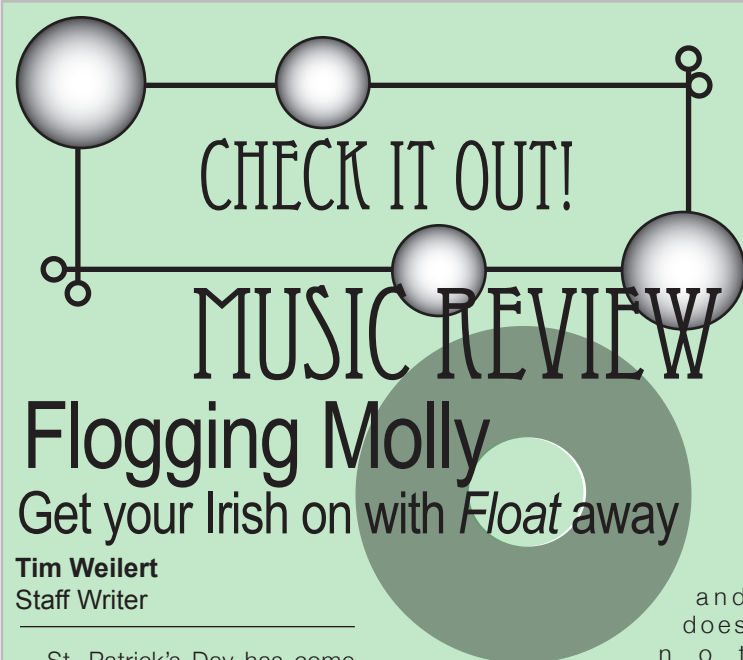
At one point in the show a recent graduate from the Physics program made the mistake of informing Keith of his major. The rest was history with jokes about stoner Physics students to confusion as to what they actually learn beyond gravity.

Most of the students in attendance were either Juniors or Seniors with many students holding a Coors beer in one hand and a tray of tater tots in the other.

One unlucky freshman girl in attendance became the target of many jokes. After one of her friends alerted Geoff of her freshman status, Geoff rattled off line after line of stupid freshmen mistakes. Fortunately, most students could relate to many of the jokes, having at one time been a freshman.

"I wish I had come to these sooner. It's exactly what we need on this campus, a good laugh," said first time attendee Elliott Dudley. He was not alone in these sentiments as was apparent by the laughs of the crowd.

By the end of the show, Junior David Wilson could only smile and say "I'm all laughed out. That was so funny!"



Tim Weilert
Staff Writer

St. Patrick's Day has come early this year, break out the Irish beer, wear green clothing and listen to Flogging Molly's newest album *Float*. Mines students may remember that Flogging Molly headlined the 2007 E-Days festival concert, which was one of the most popular parts of the festivities. Since last spring, the L.A. based Irish-punk rockers have been busy touring and recording. The newest disc from Flogging Molly is a return to form as they blend So-Cal punk with traditional Irish instrumentation.

"There's a government whip cracked across your back!" are politically charged lyrics that start the album on the track "Requiem For A Dying Song." Banjos, tin whistles, electric guitars and heavy drums fill the speakers in one of the most upbeat requiems ever heard. Moving from funeral songs to lamentations, "Paddy's Lament" references a traditional Irish tune about immigration and exile in America. "Float," the title track for the album, remains laid back

and does not break into all out punk beats, but gives the listener a chance to hear the lyrics.

Similar to past albums, Flogging Molly focuses their lyrics on drinking, the lives of sailors, the enchantment of the sea, and occasionally politics. The pace of the album picks up again with "You Won't Make A Fool Out of Me" and continues through until the closing track "The Story So Far." A highlight of the second half of the album is "Between A Man And A Woman," a track that originally appeared as a live track on Flogging Molly's first release *Alive Behind The Green Door*.

Float is an enjoyable listen because of its high energy drinking songs and unique style. Flogging Molly have not changed their sound since the late 90's, however they have not become stale in their approach to music. Of the handful of Irish-punk bands, Flogging Molly rises above others with their newest release.



MOVIE REVIEW

Semi Pro gets a 3-pointer

Bellbottoms and basketball abound

Jesse El-Aayi
Staff Writer

What can you expect from yet another sports-spoof movie starring Will Ferrell? His new comedy, *Semi Pro*, opened in theatres this past Friday. In the film, Ferrell stars as Jackie Moon, a one hit wonder pop singer whose claim to fame was the hit song "Love Me Sexy."

Set in the platform shoes and bellbottom 70's, Jackie gives up music and takes on the responsibilities of ownership of a minor league basketball team from Flint, Michigan. As an exceedingly hands-on owner, Jackie also coaches, plays and promotes his team, the Flint Tropics.

His inventive promoting methods include scheduling ten-cent beer nights, giving everyone a corn dog if the team scores 125 points in a game, Evel Knievel style jumping over cheerleaders on roller skates, having the players dress up in plastic fish and palm tree outfits, and wrestling a bear at center court.

The owner's association of the

minor league American Basketball Association (ABA) has decided to terminate operations, except for the top four teams, who will be offered NBA franchises. Jackie Moon's chance for greatness

is within grasp, but the only problem is that his team is horrible and fan attendance is at an all time low. Jackie, for the first time,

begins to think seriously about the importance of winning the game.

The movie also stars Woody Harrelson as a former Boston Celtic named Monix, who helps to organize the Tropics game plan for victory. André Benjamin, formerly Andre 3000 of hip-hop group Outkast, stars as Clarence "Coffee" Black, possibly the only talented player on the team.

Although the film is often predictable, and never comes together as a great comedy, it proves to be passably amusing. It's not exactly one of Ferrell's greatest performances, but if you're in the mood for a few good laughs, *Semi Pro* will probably keep you awake.

Breakway:
Amusing, predictably profane fanboy fare devoid of socially-redeeming or artistic filmmaking value. If you're in the mood for a few good laughs and a chance to share popcorn with a like-minded (or indulgent) companion, go for it.

★★★★☆

Green Tip of the Week

Natalie Wagner, Guest Columnist

CONSERVE WATER

This week's theme is water conservation. The tips below should help you feel better about all that stuff that you do to make you feel alive and happy: **Conserve Water.**

The minimum amount of water for humans to survive is 3-5 L (clean water)/day. Recommendations from the United States Agency for International Development, the World Bank, and from the World Health Organization say that, in developed countries, it should be more like 20-40 Liters/day per person. Currently, in the United States, the average person uses 260 Liters/day.

How can we use less water? A lot of water can be conserved by making improvements in buildings and toilet systems. When you design a house or a building (Note: Civil Engineers), pay attention to the green aspects, like passive heating, low flush toilets, grey water systems, and watch out for leaks.

As for the rest of us:

Communal showering, it's not that bad... really. Ask the Sigma Nu guys. They'll tell you.

If it's yellow, **let it mellow**. Just keep the lid down (GUYS... seriously)

Fix your leaky faucets and stay on top of it! This is Low Hanging Fruit, and a bit of a problem since 14% of our water use is attributed to someone's inability to use a wrench.

Wash those dishes the old fashioned way: Washing your dishes by hand is not only more efficient but it uses a lot less water and electricity.

Reuse your water: With appropriate paperwork and state building permits, it is also possible to adapt a greywater system for your home. Meaning that the shower water, dish washer water, and laundry water will be circulated to water your plants or garden, or wherever (like a cool water feature, pond, fountain, etc.), but don't use antibacterial soap! Plants, and everything else that evolved naturally, need bacteria.

What are we doing with all that water anyway?

- Toilet Flushing: 27%
- Clothes Washing: 22%
- Showering and Bathing: 18%
- Dishwashing: 1.4%
- Leaks: 14%
- Faucets (drinking water, cooking): 16%
- Other: 1.6%

COOKING CORNER

SALMON & RICE

Serves: 4
Time: 45 minutes

- 1 lb salmon
- 2 cups rice
- 4 cups water
- 1 cup frozen peas
- 1 lemon
- Olive oil
- Pinch saffron or cinnamon, optional

Place water and rice in a pot, add saffron or cinnamon if using. Bring to a boil on high heat. Lower heat to low, simmer until water is absorbed and rice is done. This will take at least 20 minutes.

When the rice is almost done, rinse the salmon, pat it dry with a paper towel, and place it in a shallow, microwave-safe pan. Cover with plastic wrap. Pierce several holes in the plastic. Place the pan in the microwave, cook on high for three or four minutes, depending on its thickness. Remember, you can always cook it for a little bit longer. It is done when no longer dark pink in the middle.

When the salmon is done, microwave the peas in a microwave-safe bowl until no longer frozen. Your rice should be done. Quarter the lemon. Serve rice with a little bit of oil drizzled on top, and squeeze lemon on the salmon. Enjoy!

- SARA POST

HILARY BROWN / OREDIGGER

Stay tuned for more tips next week on how to bring the environment and your dreams a little closer together!

Avalanche Reunion Tour: The Old Guard Reunites for Playoff Push

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

The Colorado Avalanche were struggling, but in one scant week, the entire outlook for the team's season did a 180. The team's roster was ravaged by injuries and their playoff hopes were fading fast in the ultra competitive Northwest division. The team had won just five of their past 15 games, going 5-7-3 in that span, and had fallen four points behind the eighth seed in the Western Conference. It did not look good for the men in burgundy and steel blue, but the return of four bona fide stars has a way of changing a team's fortunes.

Paul Stastny - returned from injury Feb. 23rd

The team's leading scorer, who has missed 15 games, had some bad luck this season. Stastny missed over a month of hockey recovering from an appendectomy and a groin injury he suffered in his return to practice. His return against Wayne Gretzky's Phoenix Coyotes proved beneficial to the squad, as he scored the team's first goal of the game. The team also responded to the young phenom's presence, as they held strong and won in an epic 12-round shootout, the longest shootout ever for either team. The eventual game winning goal was scored by rookie Cody McLeod. Stastny is the future face of the franchise, but a mere 24 hours later, the current embodiment of Avalanche hockey returned.

Joe Sakic - returned from injury Feb. 24th

After a monumental win the night before, Sakic's return was a bit of a letdown. The team had been without their captain for 38 games, but after taking a 2 goal lead early in Super Joe's return, the team fell flat and eventually let the Edmonton Oilers win 3-2. Sakic was able to chip in an assist in the loss, however, and the 19 season veteran's leadership is always invaluable to the team.

With Sakic's return, the team was almost back at full strength (except for defenseman Brett Clark who is out for the season with a separated shoulder). However, the team has been marginally successful ever since the league's return from the NHL lockout. A day later, a fan favorite from before the lockout returned home.

Peter Forsberg - signed to one year contract Feb. 25th

Foppa has always had injury problems. He's only played more 70 games in five of his 12 professional seasons. Shortly after he signed with the Philadelphia Flyers, he developed

foot and ankle problems which never seemed to go away. He had multiple surgeries on his ailing appendages and spent most of this season on the sideline, unsigned and waiting to see if he was healthy enough to continue playing. On Feb. 18th, it appeared that Forsberg was eschewing his comeback, but he surprised the NHL seven days later by returning to the team with whom he enjoyed most of his career.

Forsberg has had visa problems since his signing because he was living in his native Sweden, but he still managed to skate with the team during their road trip in Canada. Forsberg's visa problems were resolved on Friday and he may return to action on Tuesday when the Av's play the Vancouver Canucks.

Upon his return, Forsberg will move to the wing and play on the same line with Sakic. If Forsberg is still able to play up to his old standards, that line will instantly become one of the best in the league, no matter who the third member is. In Saturday's 5-2 victory against the LA Kings, fans chanted "We want Forsberg" multiple times throughout the night. If nothing else, Peter the Great still has a very prominent fan base in Colorado.

Adam Foote - traded from Columbus Feb. 26th

In a surprise move right before the NHL trade dead line, Foote returned to the team he started with back in 1991. He became the third player to return to the team who had been around for the Avalanche's 1996 and 2001 Stanley Cup victories, just a day after the second player returned. Foote was the captain of the Blue Jackets, but their playoff chances were slim and he was on the last year of his three-year contract, so he was expendable. For the Avalanche, he means increased ticket sales and an improved defensive presence for a team of the playoff cusp.

Foote returned in unspectacular fashion. He traveled to Calgary for the game on the same day he was traded, but his flight was delayed and he arrived at the stadium after the start of the game. Nevertheless, he got dressed in the locker room and sat on the bench, with no fan fare, unannounced.

And now the team is playing strong. The team won Foote's return with a goal by Stastny in overtime and the next night, the Av's beat Vancouver after Sakic tied the game with 14.7 seconds left to send it into overtime and then scored the game-winning goal in a shootout. The team currently sits in eighth place in the West and their stock is rising fast, even before Foppa's triumphant return. What a difference a week makes.



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Foppa Returns: Peter Forsberg was an Avalanche player when the team won the Stanley cup in 1996 and 2001. He has returned after spending most of the 2007-08 season sidelined.

Indoor Track and Field ranked 11th in Division II

Matthew Pusard
Content Manager

"Overall, this could be one of our best track and field teams in school history," said head coach Art Siemers. "Only time will tell." Currently, the rankings support what Siemers is saying, but the team has had to make great strides during the season to get where they are right now.

At 11th in Division II, the CSM Indoor Track and Field squad has achieved its highest rank in school history. This ranking comes a mere week after achieving a previous high of 13th. The rankings, which are dependent on objective point totals based on the top individual performances in each event, haven't always been so kind to the Orediggers this season. After starting off the season ranked 14th, the team fell early on, all the way down to 32nd in early February.

The team started to make a comeback on February 16 during the CSM All Comers Meet. There, the team set 12 new marks in events that affected the rankings, including a 4:12.51 run by Sean Cusick in the mile and a 2.01m by David Stuart in the high jump. Additionally, the Distance Medley Relay Team of Mark Husted, Nick Maynard, Ben Zywicki, and Joel Hamilton ran a 9:50.90, not only the fastest mark of the season for the team, but the fastest in Division II and a NCAA automatic qualifying time. The improved performances bumped CSM up 40 points in the ranking and to 13th overall. "These are just some of our best performances," said Siemers. "Our entire track team has worked very hard this off season in their strength and conditioning and continues to train at the highest level which has led to many personal best performances this season."

The personal bests continued a week later when the school ran in two separate meets and improved their standing further. The team broke two school records at the Prairie Wolf Invite in Lincoln, Nebraska. Hamilton ran a 14:10.93 in the 5000m, winning the event, beating the former school record set in 2006 by over 15 seconds, and automatically qualifying Hamilton for nationals. Hamilton also won Athlete of the Week in the RMAC for the week because of his record-breaking performance. Additionally, on the women's side, Kiera Benson ran a 25.50 in the 200m dash, breaking her own record set earlier in the season. She came in seventh overall in the event. Benson also owns the record in the 60m with a 7.68 second run. She is ranked twelfth in the nation in the event.

In the CSM Twilight Open at home, the home team won four different events. Jason Lehman and Chris Fitzpatrick won the 200m dash (in 23.46 seconds) and 400m dash (in 51.07 seconds) respectively. Meanwhile, Ian Storz had a long jump of 7.18m and Kaity Edmiston won the women's 400 meter dash in 1:01.42. Overall, the men garnered 11 new improved times to influence the standings and move the team up to 11th.

Despite the high ranking overall, however, the CSM team is 5th in the exceptionally strong RMAC. "Our team looks poised to improve on our 5th place RMAC performance of last season," said Siemers on the conference. "But we are in a very tough Conference with four teams currently ranked in the top 13." Since the time he said that, the total has expanded to five. Adams State just recently slipped to #2 in the nation from first this week while Western State is 6th, Nebraska-Kearney

holds onto the 9th spot, and Chadron State currently holds down 13.

Just this past weekend, the team ran in the RMAC Championships. Hamilton claimed the lone Oredigger victory with a 8:29.81 time in the 3000m run. His run got him named to the RMAC First Team in that event (first through third garners a first team nomination while fourth through sixth earns a second team berth). Husted (400m), Storz (60m hurdles), and Michael Rooney (5000m) also earned first team honors on the men's side while Husted (800m) and Fitzpatrick (400m) were both second teamers as well. On the women's side, Melissa Rhodes earned first team honors in the pole vault with a 3.25 height and second place finish while Benson was a first teamer in the 200m and a second teamer in the 60m. Her 7.68 in the 60m tied her own record.

Now, NCAA Nationals qualifiers will focus on that event on March 14 and 15 while the rest of the team gears up for outdoor season. In addition to Hamilton in the 5000m and the Men's Medley Team, Husted and Maynard are qualified in the 800m, Storz is qualified in the long jump, and Cusick is qualified in the mile. Coach Siemers spoke about what the qualifiers needed to do at Nationals in Mankato, Minn.: "[Placing in the NCAA Nationals] will come down to the few National Qualifiers maximizing their places. A few top three National finishes really push a team high at the National Championships. Last season, our men finished 15th with a 3rd place in the 800m and a 3rd place in the mile."

The first meet of the outdoor season is on March 29 at the Rob Upton Invitational in Fort Collins. That season continues until May 22-24 when outdoor nationals are held in Walnut, CA.

Apply to be a Peer Mentor!

Why be a Peer Mentor?

- Great leadership opportunity
- Help new freshmen transition into Mines
- Get to know more students (freshmen & other Peer Mentors)
- Share your experiences, positive attitude and knowledge
- Be a part of two important programs on campus: *Orientation & CSM 101*
- Make a difference, have fun, and earn some money

Questions?? Contact:
Derek Morgan
dmorgan@mines.edu
303-273-3288

Sneha Parikh
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Job Description & Application available online at:
www.mines.edu/stu_life/activities/Peer_Mentor.htm

Also available at the Student Activities Office (across from the I-Club) and the Student Development & Academic Services Office (behind the Cashier's window)

Application DEADLINE:
Wednesday,
March 19th

Fool's Gold

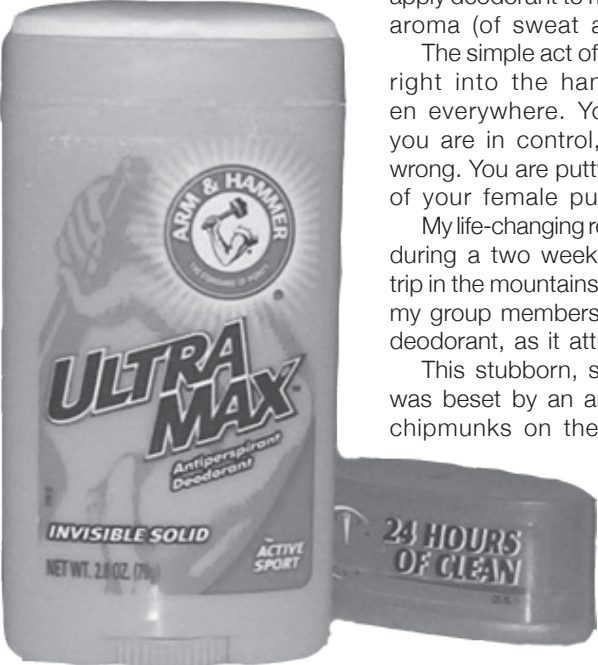
“Spam- by far, the funniest food.”

Deodorant Sham!

Secret Mind Control knows no bounds

Cameron Frisby
Repressed Zombie

Think deodorant smells good? Wrong. It smells like EVIL! A dark secret emerged this week; females everywhere have infiltrated hygiene companies to strengthen their iron-like hold on men all over the world. Have you ever wondered why you never fully understand girls at the end of the day? It comes from your deodorant, and thus by default, one's armpits. Unknown to most people, the Society for Women Engineers used to have a different name, the Society for Women Engineer-



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

ing World Domination (SWEWD). Back in 1950, the founders of SWEWD grew afraid of the confidence and raw attractiveness of the “outdoorsy type.” These were guys who go on long backcountry trips and return smelling like dirt and sweat. To protect women everywhere from embarrassing emotional outbursts, SWEWD’s founders quickly created a chemical, Demanizyne, which turns the average strong-willed guy into a docile lamb. This evil organization saw results almost immediately. Almost every guy who is looking to attract the “elusive female” would naturally apply deodorant to mask his manly aroma (of sweat and the like). The simple act of hygiene plays right into the hands of women everywhere. You may think you are in control, but you are wrong. You are putty in the hands of your female puppet master. My life-changing revelation came during a two week backpacking trip in the mountains. All but one of my group members did not wear deodorant, as it attracts animals. This stubborn, stupid camper was beset by an angry horde of chipmunks on the second day of the trip. Due to his deodorant-induced docile nature, he was too

aloof and gentle to fight off the easily squishable rodents. Upon returning to civilization, I immediately reached my contacts at the Guys’ United Nations (GUN) with the shocking news. Fortunately for men everywhere, our Secretary General, Chuck Norris, can simply round-house kick odor in the face, thus making deodorant unnecessary. Overcome by rage at the discovery of this female treachery, Chuck kicked the side of a mountain, setting off the most powerful earthquake ever recorded. We had two options; bring every man in the world to bask in Chuck’s glory (and thus regain full man points) or tackle the problem at the source. Through powerful GUN task forces, we were able to “take care of” certain female executives at personal hygiene companies all over the world. However, we could only remove the behavior-modification chemical from two brands: Axe and Speed Stick. I too am a Mines student, so by no means am I encouraging men to stop wearing deodorant. It would actually be great if more people on campus would start masking their bodily odors. However, be very careful about the brand you purchase. To guys everywhere, only use deodorant if you are sure it will not tamper with your manly nature. Also, you could always use female deodorant (it is Demanizyne free).

M. Jordan with Obama

Nike becomes newer and hipper Halliburton

Matthew Pusard
Wants to be like Mike

With strong momentum heading into Tuesday's primaries in Texas and Ohio, Barack Obama made a bold move on Thursday to answer some controversial questions about his campaign. Obama has long been dodging the question of being “black enough” despite his father being from Kenya. To put an end to that criticism for once and for all, he enlisted Michael Jordan, a 5-time MVP, 6-time NBA Finals winner, and 1-time Space Jam champion, to be his running mate. The move is expected to help Obama dramatically with black voters, currently at 80%, and with Illinois voters, currently at 65%. “No Democrat can win the presidency if they have problems in Chicago,” explained CNN pundit Patrick Snow. “I mean, look at Michael Dukakis or JFK. Neither of them went anywhere with struggling Illinois support.” Naturally, there is some controversy over the Jordan selection. Most people are speculating whether an NBA background will be enough experience to be the Vice President. According to Dick Cheney, “It should be more than enough.”

Jordan was divorced from his wife Juanita in 2007 after a very public and ultimately false paternity suit by a former lover, Karla Knafel, in 2006. This gives the Obama Campaign a leg up on the Clinton campaign because potential First Gentleman Bill Clinton cannot have a paternity test for all of his lovers’ children mainly because he lost track somewhere after his 70th. Should Obama win the Democratic nomination, Michael Jordan, AKA the greatest basketball player of all time, has declared that instead of a vice presidential debate, there should be vice presidential dunk contest without the help of “performance enhancing trampolines.” Not to be outdone, Hillary Clinton declared hours later that the legendary Babe Ruth would be her running mate if she took the Democratic nomination. While Ruth has been dead for 60 years, Clinton claims that the Babe is still livelier than our current vice president. Positive public response towards the Jordan vice presidency has prompted Obama to place even more sporting stars in positions of authority. Tiger Woods, AKA the world’s greatest golfer, will become the Secretary of Defense should

Obama win the election in November. Obama explained that he briefly considered employing Phil Mickelson in that position, but was afraid of Mickelson’s track record. “I know that any war we faced, we would start off very strongly because of Phil,” explained Obama, “but then he would cause us to choke and lose at the very end. Thus, I’m going with a real winner.” Other prominent figures now involved in the Obama campaign include Jim Brown as a potential Secretary of State, Shannon Sharpe as the White House Press Secretary, and poker star Phil Hellmuth as the UN Ambassador. “Who better to tell us that Venezuela is full of crap?” explained Obama. Obama’s last move, in an attempt to capitalize off of his unprecedented momentum, dubbed “Obamania,” his campaign will host a wrestling PPV similar to Wrestle Mania in June. On the undercard, Hulk Hogan will take on the 7’2” wrestler known as “The Great Khali” and call him “brother” at least eight times, while Obama will wrestle a bear in the main event. Will Ferrell is currently suing for copyright infringement and will wrestle three midgets for the show’s opening match.

STANDARD DEVIATION

BY KYLE SANDERS



Sudoku

	1		3			5		4
				5	6		8	
						1	6	
		6			9	2		
5	3		2	6	8		9	1
		9	4			8		
	4	1						
	6		9	2				
7		5			3		1	

Puzzle by websudoku.com

This week’s difficulty: Medium

Last week’s Hard Solution>

4	3	9	2	8	6	7	1	5
7	5	2	1	4	3	6	9	8
8	6	1	9	5	7	2	4	3
6	8	4	3	9	2	1	5	7
1	9	7	8	6	5	4	3	2
3	2	5	7	1	4	8	6	9
5	1	3	4	2	8	9	7	6
9	7	8	6	3	1	5	2	4
2	4	6	5	7	9	3	8	1

Puzzle by websudoku.com



Songs of All Time according to Mozart

- 10.) Hey There Delilah – Plain White T’s
- 9.) Thriller – Michael Jackson
- 8.) Talk Dirty To Me – Poison
- 7.) Free Bird – Lynyrd Skynyrd
- 6.) Gin And Juice – Snoop Doggy Dogg
- 5.) Beethoven’s 9th Symphony
- 4.) Theme Song From Seinfeld
- 3.) That one with those rad guitars that are like “wahhha-haha” and the dude, like, had a sweet mullet
- 2.) Every Linkin Park song ever, totally
- 1.) Never Gonna Give You Up – Rick Astley -Tim Weilert

Women crucial at Mines Female population plays important role on campus

Deb Lasich
WISEM Executive Director

Before coming to Mines in 1999, I worked at The Women's College at the University of Denver. It was a bit of a culture shock to come from a learning environment that was 100% female students to one that was around 25%... and had only graduated four women during its first 75 years. In addition, my undergraduate major was in sociology and my master's degree was in community and regional planning, so I sometimes felt like an anthropologist studying a strange, new civilization... but one, that over the past nine years, I've come to respect, enjoy, and learn from.

In my role as the Executive Director of the Women in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (WISEM) Program, I work with others on campus to recruit and retain female students to Mines, and over the past few years, I've had more male students saying that they want CSM to work harder on this issue, too. So why aren't there more women pursuing degrees at CSM? Data from the Women in Engineering Programs and Advocates Networks (WEPAN) show that 57% of female and 61% of male high school students are ready to take engineering classes upon graduation, so academic preparation doesn't appear to be the problem. Once in college, women comprise 57% of the total undergraduate population in the U.S., but only ac-

count for a little over 17% of engineering undergraduate enrollments. Medicine, law, and business, once male-dominated disciplines, now enroll 50% or more women in their programs. So why aren't women choosing engineering?



COURTESY WISEM

Pioneering Woman: Florence Caldwell was the first female to graduate from the School of Mines.

This topic was discussed in the December 2007 American Society for Engineering Education *Prism* article. While the research is not conclusive, much of it concerns an overall image problem regarding how society views engineers and the field of engineering. In fact, polls continue to show that the American public has little understanding of what engineers do, perceiving it

as being boring or even "nerdy." So when high school girls say they want careers that positively impact humanity and that are flexible and creative, you can see why engineering doesn't immediately come to mind. That is why programs like WISEM, SWE, and both the Undergraduate and Graduate Admissions Offices are working on showing women, as well as men, that engineering does make the world a better place, that it does provide career flexibility, and that it is creative.

We must be doing something right. Mines is above the national average (17%) concerning female undergraduate enrollment at 21.8%. It is also interesting to note that once women come to CSM, they persist at a higher rate than their male counterparts (75% compared to 70%) and also graduate at a higher rate (72% to 67%). While we won't reach gender enrollment parity overnight, it is heartening to know that women have been a part of Mines for 110 years, starting in 1898 with its first female graduate, Florence Caldwell. It is also heartening to know that women will continue to be part of Mines in ways Florence Caldwell couldn't even image.

If you'd like to know more about the history of women at Mines, please go to <http://www.mines.edu/Academic/affairs/wisem/pdfFILES/CenturyOfWomen.pdf>.

Coolbaugh atrium needs some work

Ian Littman
Staff Writer

You may have noticed last Tuesday (the 19th) a table manned by various people in the Student Center. You may have seen that those people had a petition they wanted you to sign. Let me shed some light on what that petition is, and why you should join in the effort, if you haven't already.

To start off, everyone has been in the chemistry building, Coolbaugh Hall, at some point or other. The current required coursework is eight credit hours in this building, and the work load ends up being six hours per week per semester for two semesters in this place. Well over a million dollars is extracted from each incoming Mines class for the three required chemistry classes (Chemistry I, Chemistry II and "Quant Lab"). Plus you have the actual Chemistry majors,

along with a host of other people that use the building in a greater capacity.

Yet the atrium, which should be the building's centerpiece, is a wreck, reminiscent of an underfunded assisted living facility's foyer. Nobody wants to hang around this little bit of college property and I don't blame them, since much nicer foyers are to be had on campus, such as the one at the CTLM building. In short, the Coolbaugh atrium is a poor use of space as it stands, an eyesore that needs to be remedied.

That's where the petition comes in. The idea is to take a miniscule fraction of the incoming freshman money from one incoming class (the estimate is \$30,000) and make the atrium not only livable, but beautiful. The plans have been set for a comfortable, aesthetically pleasing design to replace the current one, with the hopeful end result being a place where local artists would be honored to place their work. This would in turn lead to a general upturn in the aura of Coolbaugh, which is certainly not a bad thing, especially when it comes to leading prospective students through the building.

Some progress has already been made in this direction; a department donation has secured chairs for the atrium that are certainly upgrades from the previous atrocities that passed as furniture. Then again, the ant-infested couches still remain, and will

remain unless enough support is garnered by the Mines community, in the form of signatures to the petition, to change the atrium for the better. Not to sound facetious, but every signature counts. Support has already been shown by the community, so let's keep that going. For more information on this petition, look me up on Facebook and join the appropriate group, or e-mail me at ilittman@mines.edu.

Thanks to everyone reading, editing and taking action on this piece!

"Nobody wants to hang around this little bit of college property and I don't blame them."

Oh brother, brother, brother

Succession of Fidel Castro by brother Raul shows faults of US policy toward Cuba

Arturo Lopez-Levy
Guest Writer

By many accounts, Cuban politics entered a new era this weekend when Fidel Castro stepped aside in favor of his chosen successor, his brother Raul. Castro's socialist leadership had shaped Cuba's politics, economy and foreign policy for almost fifty years. For some analysts the end of Castro's rule seemed to signal a seismic change in Cuban Communist Politics from Fidel's sway of personality to Raul's collective style.

But does this leadership turnover signify more extensive changes in Cuba? Events in the nineteen months since Raul Castro took over as provisional president suggest that the answer is yes. In a series of speeches, beginning in July 26 last year, Raul called for an increase in foreign investment, asserted his frustration with Cuba's low food production and the excessive red tape of communist bureaucracy. For

many Cubans, Raul's statements expressed a move in the direction of a Chinese style economy.

The younger Castro has weathered a forty-nine year apprenticeship as Cuba's second man. Before the revolution, he was the commander of one of the guerrilla fronts. Since 1959, he has been the minister of the Cuban Armed Forces and second in command in the party. In 1962, he went to Moscow to negotiate the defense treaty with the Soviets that led to the installment of the missiles. In 1981, when Leonid Brezhnev decided to tell the Cubans that the Soviet Union wouldn't intervene if the Reagan Administration launched an invasion against their country, he chose Raul as interlocutor over his more temperamental brother. Being deployed in many areas of the world including Angola and Nicaragua, the Cuban Armed Forces has been one of the most efficiently run ministries in Cuba.

Raul, known to Cubans by the

name of "El Chino" (The Chinese), is reputed to have an admiration for the economic successes of China and Vietnam, countries that he visited several times. During the crisis of the nineties, when Cuba lost forty percent of its gross domestic product, Raul coined the phrase "Los frijoles son mas importantes que los cañones" ("Beans are more important than guns"). He led the party discussion that opened the farmers markets and promoted small private businesses. Raul has supported the use of market management techniques and the promotion of joint ventures with European and Canadian investors.

Assessing Raul's rule requires a grasp of the Cuban political situation. It is important to note that all serious challenges to the status quo since 1959 have come from within the regime. The Cuban communist leadership remains united while the opposition is dispersed with many in exile or jail. Part of the old revolution-

ary base is hostile to market reforms. These people treasure equality even if it means to live in scarcity. By contrast, there are many, especially within the youth, who would like to loosen the government's control on property ownership in small businesses and liberalize the prices of agricultural products. In terms of political liberalization, recent assemblies expressed a growing demand in favor of easing control over some civil liberties like the right to travel.

What, then, should we expect from Raul Castro's rule? He will position his own men to take up the top leadership and mount a concerted effort to secure a historic legacy for himself. A shift to liberal democracy is out of question. A radical economic reform is far from certain. However, some important liberalization steps are probable. Cuba is likely to move in the direction of China's economic model, but slowly, at Cuban pace. Raul will open more opportunity to foreign investment, liberalize

prices in agriculture, and privatize small businesses. To preserve legitimacy, Fidel's iconic stature as great leader won't change. Some ministers might be replaced, but the party will insist that the revolutionary ship is sailing steady as she goes.

What about the U.S? The fact that the succession took place this Sunday on Castro's terms is a sign of the embargo's failure. How much more intelligent it would have been to engage with Cuba years ago. The United States played its entire hand to a regime change strategy. It failed. The mindlessness of the policy continues to be evident by President Bush's response to Raul Castro's offer to open a dialogue with the United States. Bush could have used this juncture to propose a reciprocal lifting of the travel restrictions to the new government in Havana. Instead he decided to stay the course. It will be the decision of the next U.S president to engage Cuba or remain as ineffective as his/her predecessors.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Gravedigger,

You're right. You're absolutely right. Instead of aspiring to be the geek of the week, I have seen the error of my desires and have since righted my folly in this regard. Instead, I can only hope to emulate you - an auspicious but completely anonymous writer for the school publication with a moniker I could only vaguely wish to have.

I shall greet everyone I see on campus warmly; after all, how could they not have read your inspiring words and say 'hi' back? Never mind the fact that they may be introverted - the Gravedigger's words can change entire personality types.

I also admire the Gravedigger's ability to discern that the entire population of people that identify with the word 'geek' (possibly every Mines student) is a chicken-shit. Yes, I did not believe obscenities were necessary to get one's point across in publications until the Gravedigger pointed out my misguided traditions of communication.

I now know that I should never aspire to be in a light-hearted, amusing section of the school paper, for as I learned, if one is to have decency, they would realize how stupid it is to be featured in the section aforementioned above. This is serious business.

I am now also aware that identifying with the term 'geek' precludes any moral decency as well - perhaps even bordering on soulless. I had no idea that being a geek meant one would not open doors for ladies or do anything that

a normal person would do. This is outlandish and I won't have it.

Thank you Gravedigger, for showing us the error of our ways while elucidating on such revelations alone in your room, from your computer, anonymously.

A Huge Fan,
Jeff Park

Dear Editor,

The single greatest victory that the Western World will ever see in the War on Terror will be the revocation of Israel's Siege on Gaza. The United States must strike, now, for Peace.

Conflict in the Middle East is, perhaps, the greatest example of a sociological positive feed-back loop. Fear on both sides lead those in power to clamp down with strict rules and closed borders. Those who are not in power see a limited number of options and resort to desperate violence.

This in turn, leads to greater fear in those in power and leads to harsher treatment of those who are not. It is as Cicero says in his Tusculan Disputations: "But we, who increase every approaching evil by our fear, and every present one by our grief, choose rather to condemn the nature of things than our own errors."

We can change this for the better. If people use violence and terrorism because it is the only thing that will work, we must show them that there is something else that they can do that

works. We have already seen non-violent protest do amazing things.

Under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, non-violence freed India from the British Empire. Under Martin Luther King Jr., non-violence brought injustice to the forefront of the American consciousness. On February 25, 2008 in Gaza, a human chain grew in peaceful protest of Israel's Siege of the Gaza Strip. Did you hear about it?

We must strike now. Peaceful protest needs greater publicity. In his "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," Dr. King lamented the inaction of the middle class whites who did nothing even more than the actions of the southern whites who opposed him.

As an American citizen, I am taking action. I am writing to you now, as I will write to my senator and my representative detailing the kind of world that I want live in. I want to be a citizen of a world that takes notice of peaceful protest, that stands in defense of human rights, that hails open discussion, that hungers for justice. The best way to bring these ideals to life in the real world is to change the way that American's view violence.

Terrorism is a crime, not an act of war. Peaceful protest, in contrast, is a great act of patriotism. If the violence in the Middle East is to come to an end we must hail peaceful protesters as heroes, as loudly as we condemn terrorism.

For more information, please see: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7262089.stm

-Paul Johnson



I am seriously pissed off. In fact, I couldn't be more pissed off. If I was a rhino, I would be a really pissed off rhino. Let me tell you a story.

Guys, you might want to sit down for this one. I was walking through the library when I had a sudden urge to use the restroom. I couldn't find a toilet nearby, so I started searching on other levels.

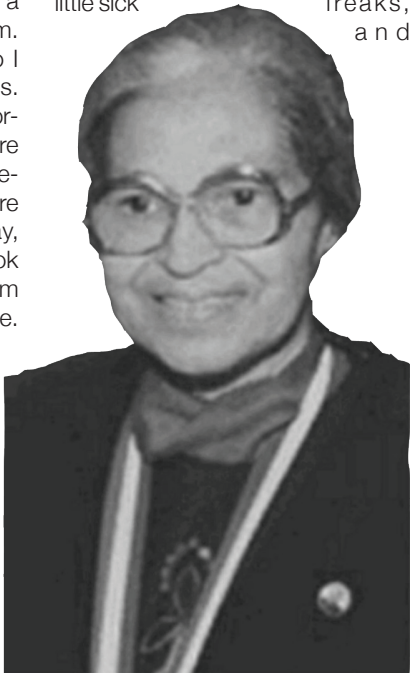
Well, I found out two very important things about the library: there is a bathroom on the second basement and, more importantly, there is a second basement. Anyway, after an incredible journey, I took my relieved self out of the bathroom and started walking down the aisle.

All of a sudden, out of nowhere, comes the most beautiful girl that I have ever seen. Now, I will not go into detail, but I started thinking, "if I'm in the second basement of the library and I see the most beautiful girl that I have seen here yet, I should hang out in the nooks and crannies of this campus more often."

So now you understand why I'm pissed off. Why can't you normal, good-looking girls be visible for once? You get into your dorm rooms, lock the door and sit there. We don't all have to be like Rosa Parks - I think she proved the point for all of us. Get out there, start hanging around other places - like the Student Center at 3 pm, perhaps.

I had lost all hope in Mines Girls, but "bombshell beauty" has now

restored the faith. So, this is going to be my greatest lesson to you people. Men of Mines: if you are in search of the gorgeous girls at CSM, go to places where you creepers would never hang out. Run, you little sick freaks, and



COURTESY WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

hang out in the darkness. Hang out in the nooks and crannies in the library, Berthoud and Alderson and find the hotties, because you will scare them away from their hiding spot and let the rest of us - the normal guys - gaze upon their beauty.

Now a word to you girls who are always noticeable, but still haven't gotten any attention: head to the

nooks and crannies of the library, Berthoud and Alderson because you will not be gazed at by anybody, except for some poor guy running to the bathroom. He will probably shit himself after seeing you.

Facebook status: The Gravedigger is mad and excited - at the same time.

Peace,
Gravedigger

Beltway to nowhere

Andrew Aschenbrenner
Opinion Editor

I will concede that I don't know a whole lot about the transportation issues of the city of Golden. What I do know, however, is that traffic problems exist, just as they do with any city. The difference that I see in the approach of Golden is that theirs is one of practicality and not just blind action.

It seems to me that the city has had, and continues to have, the best interests of its residents in mind. The issues involving large development such as the new broadcast tower on Lookout Mountain or the proposed completion of the beltway have the potential to greatly affect Golden and the people who live here.

Efforts are ongoing to make Golden a more livable place, including, most recently, the an-

Mines Perspectives

"Why do you think the ratio of women to men in engineering is so low?"



Michelle Harris

I would say that the support system isn't there - from the family, from schools, from the community, etc.

The ratio is so low in science and engineering because women are not predisposed in their upbringing towards those subjects.



Islin Moy



Craig Maurer

Women are still integrating into the engineering field or higher educational-type jobs.

There is a misconception that a woman can't have a family AND a career.



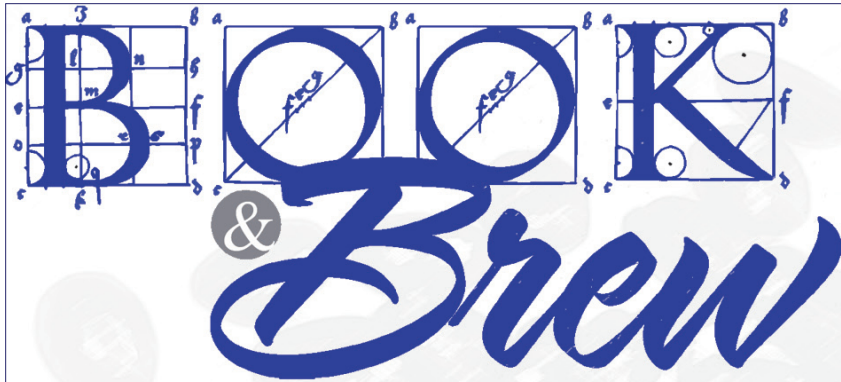
Alexandria Dolezal



Daniel Keyser

Different groups of people not thought to dominate sciences because of their social identities tend to shy away from them because of that.

ALL PHOTOS: ANDREW ASCHENBRENNER / OREDIGGER



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CSM Students rally for affordable textbooks

Think you're paying too much for textbooks? Colorado lawmakers and students from across the state, including CSM, are hoping to ease the burden.

[Read Full Story - 0 Comments](#)

Colorado Caucus: Republicans choose Romney

by William Everson

February 5th, also known as Super Tuesday, was marked by rounds of Democrat and Republican primaries and caucuses throughout the nation, the greatest number of primaries ever held on the same day.

Colorado was just one of the many states to participate in Super Tuesday, with Democrats and Republicans caucusing throughout each county.

The Republican caucus held at Columbine High School was just one of the many caucuses held in the state on Tuesday. As the evening began, bands of Republican caucus-goers filled into the empty school's cafeteria, glad to escape the chilled evening air. Here, methodical volunteers checked in the queue, directing them to their designated districts table while sharing hearty banter.

[Read Full Story - 0 Comments](#)

Not your everyday wristwatch: Physics colloquium discusses new technology

Clocks are getting smaller, and researchers at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) in Boulder are doing the shrinking.

[Read Full Story - 0 Comments](#)

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